

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LENING 00847 201432Z
ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4139
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

S E C R E T L E N I N G R A D 00847

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP
SUBJ: AMERICAN LAWYER ORVILLE H. SCHELL

REF: MOSCOW 4980

1. PAST PRESIDENT OF NEW YORK BAR ASSOCIATION ORVILLE H. SCHELL AND ATTORNEY JEROME L. COBEN VISITED CONGEN EARLY MORNING SATURDAY, MARCH 18, AND OUTLINED THEIR PLANS TO VISIT THE LENINGRAD LAWYERS' COLLEGIUM AND THREE LOCAL REFUSENIKS. THEY WERE GIVEN BRIEFING AND GUIDANCE BY DPO GEORGE RUECKERT AND WERE CAUTIONED AGAINST ACCEPTING ANY MATERIALS FROM REFUSENIKS TO CARRY OUT OF THE COUNTRY. SCHELL STATED HE HAD NO INTENTION OF JEOPARDIZING THE KINDS OF CONTACTS HE IS TRYING TO MAKE BY SUCH ACTIVITY. COBEN HOWEVER HAD BROUGHT WITH HIM SOME JEANS AND A PRAYER SHAWL FOR A LENINGRAD REFUSENIK, BUT INDICATED HIS INTENTION OF LEAVING THEM WITH SOMEONE IN MOSCOW. IN MOSCOW, SCHELL AND COBEN HAD VISITED VLADIMIR SLEPAK; THEY INTENDED TO VISIT ALEKSANDR YAMPOLSKIY, LINA RABINOV, AND IL'YA SHOSTAKOVSKIY IN LENINGRAD.

2. SCHELL AND COBEN WERE ASKED TO LEAVE THEIR LOCAL ADDRESSES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND WERE ALSO GIVEN THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 LENING 00847 201432Z

CARDS OF CONGENOFFS. THEY WERE REQUESTED TO CONTACT CONGEN IN THE EVENT OF ANY INCIDENT. SCHELL AND COBEN WERE LATER INVITED TO DINNER AT THE RESIDENCE. THEY HAVE MADE NO SUBSEQUENT CONTACT WITH CONGEN AFTER THEY ENTERED KIROV THEATER TO SEE BORIS GODUNOV SATURDAY NIGHT. WE ASSUME THEY DEPARTED FOR MOSCOW AS SCHEDULED ON SUNDAY, MARCH 19.

3. THEY FELT THEY HAD RECEIVED VERY COLD RECEPTION FROM OFFICIALS THEY MET IN BOTH MOSCOW AND LENINGRAD WHERE NO EFFORT WAS MADE TO PROVIDE ADEQUATE TRANSLATION. EMBASSY MOSCOW MAY HAVE FULLER READ-OUT.

4. FOR MOSCOW: IT MIGHT BE WELL TO VERIFY THEIR HOPEFULLY UNEVENTFUL DEPARTURE FROM MOSCOW. BUCHANAN

SECRET

NNN

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